



May 2013

**ISN Contact:** Felicia Cumings Smith, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Next-Generation Learners  
[felicia.smith@education.ky.gov](mailto:felicia.smith@education.ky.gov)  
Follow me on twitter @FeliciaSmith25

*The Kentucky Department of Education's mission is to prepare all Kentucky students for next-generation learning, work and citizenship by engaging schools, districts, families and communities through excellent leadership, service and support.*

### **Let's TALK: Conversations about Effective Teaching Conference**

The Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Education Association are co-sponsoring *Let's TALK: Conversations about Effective Teaching*, June 19-21, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza, Louisville. Teachers will share from their own experiences in the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC), Math Design Collaborative (MDC) and other methods used to teach the Kentucky Core Academic Standards. Educators also will share from their direct experiences in the field testing of Kentucky's new Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES).

Please share this information with your teacher and principal colleagues. School teams are strongly encouraged to register for this professional learning opportunity. If you have questions, please contact Michelle Duke at [talk@kea.org](mailto:talk@kea.org) or (502) 696-8948.

### **Superintendent Webcast**

The most recent Superintendent Webcast was April 29, 2013. If you were unable to participate in the webcast, you can access the recording at <http://education.ky.gov/commofed/web/pages/default.aspx>.

**The next superintendents' webcast is Friday, May 31, 2013, from 2-3 p.m. ET.** One of the topics is maximizing the flexibility offered by Kentucky's ESEA waiver. If there are other topics that you would like to have addressed, please e-mail [maryann.miller@education.ky.gov](mailto:maryann.miller@education.ky.gov).

The session will be recorded for those who cannot watch it live, and the materials and link for the webcast will be forwarded closer to the time of the actual broadcast.

### **ISN Monthly Webcast**

The most recent ISN webcast was held April 22, 2013. It addressed agency updates, a standards update, K-3 Program Reviews, PGES updates, and CIITS/EDS. Access the following

links to view the archived version and get the PowerPoint.

**PowerPoint:** ISN Webcast PowerPoint

**KDE Media Portal** <http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/videos/instructional-support-network-webcast-april-2013/>

The next ISN webcast is scheduled for **May 30, 2013, at 9 a.m. ET.**

## **PGES Monthly Webcast**

The May 15, 2013, webcast featured a focus on PGES pilot implementation. It highlighted new features of Educator Development Suite (EDS), information on the Web Collector and a review of the PGES Professional Learning Sessions on Lync. This was a highly interactive webcast with more than 25 questions from our viewers submitted during live broadcast. The information provided was valuable and substantially contributed to the audience's understanding. More information on archived webcasts can be found on the right side of the [PGES Field Test Web page](#).

## **Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Update**

The items for the June KBE meeting related to teaching and learning are:

- 704 KAR 3:303, Kentucky Core Academic Standards – Science Standards (Second Reading)
- 704 KAR 3:035, Annual Professional Development Plan (Second Reading)
- Preschool Rates
- Appointments to State Textbook Commission
- 704 KAR 3:390, Extended School Services (First Reading)
- Report on TELL Kentucky Results (Ann Maddox)
- Program Review Accountability Model

## **Unbridled Learning Update**

### **Standards:**

**NGSS:** The Kentucky Board of Education reviewed the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) at its April meeting. The second reading is scheduled for the board's June meeting, after which the standards will move through the regulatory process.

The standards are aligned with and explicitly make connections to the Kentucky Core Academic Standards for mathematics and English/language arts. If approved, they will be implemented in the 2014-15 school year.

A reoccurring question has been about how the performance expectations will be assigned to grades in middle school in Kentucky. The second public draft was accompanied by an appendix containing model course progressions. The model course-progression appendix listed two possible course sequences for middle school: a Science Domains model and a Conceptual Understanding model. State lead team and public feedback on the two course models indicated a preference for the Conceptual Understanding model. This model reflects an integrated approach that includes life, earth and physical science concepts in every grade.

The model course appendix has been temporarily removed from the NGSS website so that it may be revised based on the changes in the final version of the standards. The authors of the NGSS are revising the course models to reflect these changes. Once it has been revised, the Conceptual Understanding model will be used to assign performance expectations to grades 6, 7 and 8 in the final version of the NGSS presented to the board in June.

The NGSS and several supporting documents may be downloaded from <http://www.nextgenscience.org>. A guide for how to read the NGSS is available at <http://www.nextgenscience.org>.

A recent article was posted in *Ed Week* on the need to focus on building capacity to implement the NGSS. KDE will continue supporting the leadership networks to support overall implementation.

**Fact Sheet About Kentucky's Core Academic Standards:** Due to misinformation being distributed both nationally and within the state about the Common Core State Standards and Kentucky Core Academic Standards, KDE has developed a single-page document with the facts about the development, adoption and implementation of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards. It is available on the [Unbridled Learning page](#) of the KDE website (From the homepage click on the Unbridled Learning logo on the right side of the page). Superintendents are welcome to distribute it among their staff and community to help address any questions that they may receive on this topic.

### **Program Reviews (KDE Proficiency Strategy)**

District-approved Program Review scores must be submitted into ASSIST submission for **all** Program Reviews by **June 1**. Once all a district's schools have submitted, the district must "APPROVE" the reviews for schools to complete the process. These scores will be reported publicly this fall and will be used in the calculation that sets goals for the 2013-14 school year.

The Office of Next-Generation Learners is monitoring the ASSIST system. As of May 1, 478 schools had not entered scores. Detailed information on the districts' final submission process to KDE is found in the ***ASSIST Technical Guide: Completing and Submitting Program Review Reports For Kentucky Schools and Districts*** on the Program Review website at <http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/pgmrev/Documents/ASSIST%20KDE%20Technical%20Guide%20-%20Program%20Reviews-12-13.pdf>. The process for district approval begins on page 15, and screen shots are provided in the guide to support districts through the process. Districts also may wish to check that:

- Schools in the district completed a **new diagnostic for each Program Review** applicable to the school and did not edit the 2011-12 reviews. Required Program Reviews are:
  - o K-3: Any school encompassing those grades in any configuration.
  - o Arts and Humanities, PL/CS and Writing: All schools, including schools with K-3.
- Schools completed the Program Review Next Steps Diagnostic and noted which program(s) received a focused, in-depth study. Schools may check more than one.

For questions about Program Reviews content or submission, contact Robert Duncan at (502) 564-2106 or [robert.duncan@education.ky.gov](mailto:robert.duncan@education.ky.gov) or Todd Davis at (502) 564-2706 or [todd.davis@education.ky.gov](mailto:todd.davis@education.ky.gov).

For questions about Program Reviews in accountability, contact Kathy Moore at (502) 564-4394 or [kathy.moore@education.ky.gov](mailto:kathy.moore@education.ky.gov).

For technical questions related to ASSIST, please call AdvancEd at (888) 413-3669.

### **CIITS Update (KDE Proficiency Strategy)**

**Student Portal now available in CIITS:** The Student Portal is now available in the Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System (CIITS). This new feature allows teachers to assign content to students in one or more of their sections. Teachers may search content intended for students, assign the content to students, set assignment parameters such as visible start/end/due dates and provide instructions/comments for the assignment. In addition, the new features allow teachers to view content they have assigned and the number of times they have assigned it. Teachers may track resource assignment history to view additional information about a particular assignment.

Once a teacher has assigned content to student(s), the student will log into CIITS to view and complete the assignment. Students may filter and view assignments by all courses or a specific course. Students will be able to view past and upcoming (including current) assignments and details for the assignment, including due date and any instruction/comments given by the teacher. Students will click the content link to launch the content.

More information on the Student Portal, including assigning resources to students and student accessibility, is available at [http://education.ky.gov/districts/tech/ciits/Documents/Assigning\\_Materials\\_To\\_Students.pdf](http://education.ky.gov/districts/tech/ciits/Documents/Assigning_Materials_To_Students.pdf).

**Detailed Program data now available in CIITS:** Detailed, Detailed, student-level program data now is available on a new “Program” tab on the student profile in CIITS. This information is available to superintendents, principals, teachers (for students they teach ) and those users who have been assigned the analyst or specialist roles. The new feature allows these users to view a student’s Gifted and Talented, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), Special Education and Title I details.

**Product Updates:** New functionality also exists in CIITS within the following product functions:

- instructional management enhancement
- classrooms enhancement
- actionable standards aligned to third-party materials
- linked third-party materials
- Curriculum Manager enhancements
- standard search – search on standard ID
- integrated Common Core 360 materials

**CIITS EDS Module Permissions/Access to PD Tab:** All Kentucky educators now have access to the new Educator Development Suite (EDS) in CIITS. The tab is located alongside the blue ribbon at the top of the CIITS homepage. Through EDS, educators will be able to individualize professional learning based on need; search a catalog of professional learning resources including PD 360 and state and local activities; register for activities; and maintain a record of their own professional learning. Superintendents and principals may create activities for district

and school staff. They are able to view PD profiles, recommend activities and resources to their staff, and run reports on an institution's professional learning activities. Teachers are able to search and register for professional learning opportunities as well as to recommend activities and resources. KDE will grant each school or district functionality allowing them to assign a PD – CIITS Administrator with all permissions, and the school or district may assign other roles to users

**New Roles have Been Added in Infinite Campus for EDS:** See the attached document for new roles added into Infinite Campus for EDS.

#### **Reminder: Common CIITS Issues to Consider**

1. Users cannot use one e-mail address in two districts. The e-mail address is attached to the User ID and District Number and controls access to CIITS. It must be unique for every user account. If it is not unique, the user will not be able to login for access to CIITS.
- 2 State Exclude enrollments won't be pulled into CIITS. If the State Exclude is checked on the Infinite Campus Enrollment Tab, those enrollments will not be pulled for CIITS.
3. Term Grades need to be marked as State Reported. State Reported must be checked in Infinite Campus for term grades to be pulled in CIITS.

#### **Proficiency Plan Update**

**Kindergarten Screener:** The common kindergarten screen implementation is underway. As a reminder, **all entering kindergarten students must be screened no earlier than 15 days prior to school and no later than the 30th instructional day.** Districts are required to collect information regarding the student's prior early learning setting. The prior early learning setting data will be entered into a tab, which will be available in July, in Infinite Campus. An announcement will be sent to the district once this is available.

Materials for every school have been ordered and should be delivered to each school by June 7. On-line resources are available to districts at [www.brigance.com/kentucky](http://www.brigance.com/kentucky). Additionally, the common [kindergarten screen Web page](#) on the KDE website has updated information that will be beneficial to all districts implementing the kindergarten screen.

Districts are required to provide evidence to KDE of school and district training this year.

#### **College and Career Readiness Plan Update**

**Compulsory Attendance:** The *Raising Compulsory Attendance Age Grant Application and Certifications* document that was sent with the Fast Five on Friday, May 10, 2013, must be completed, signed and uploaded into ASSIST for districts to receive \$10,000 planning grants for Senate Bill 97. Senate Bill 97 gives local boards of education the authority to adopt policies that raise the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18. Those policies would take effect beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. The document outlines the adoption process for local boards and includes the certifications necessary for compliance with the requirements of SB 97 and award of funding.

Districts are reminded that they should not adopt a compulsory attendance age policy prior to **June 25, 2013**, since the law does not take effect until that date. If a district already has

adopted a policy under SB 97, we recommend that it re-ratify that decision on or after June 25, 2013.

All superintendents will receive a formal invitation from AdvancEd on June 26, 2013, asking them to upload into ASSIST a signed copy of the attached grant application/certifications document, the approved policy and board minutes showing its adoption. The \$10,000 grants will be disbursed to the approved districts after July 1, 2013, to the extent funding is available.

Questions on this process can be directed to Tom Edgett at [thomas.edgett@education.ky.gov](mailto:thomas.edgett@education.ky.gov) or (502) 564-4772, ext. 4518.

## **Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) Update**

**TELL Kentucky Results:** Once again, Kentucky had a record-breaking response to the TELL KY survey. Nearly 87 percent of educators expressed their perceptions of the teaching and learning conditions in their schools. There are many tools available to schools and districts, including an archived version of the **Data Dos and Don'ts post survey webinar** from earlier this month, as they begin to look at their data. Other resources, such as **Data Use guides** to help schools and districts identify what is going well in the school and specific areas that need improvement, can be found in the "Tools" section of the [www.tellkentucky.org](http://www.tellkentucky.org) website. Schools also can align their data to the continuum in the **Kentucky Teaching Conditions Standards** on the website.

Embargoed results are available to educators at [www.tellkentucky.org/results](http://www.tellkentucky.org/results) until the commissioner's public release at the June 5 Kentucky Board of Education meeting. This embargo is intended to allow school and district leaders the opportunity to view their data prior to public release. **After the public release**, results will be available at [www.tellkentucky.org](http://www.tellkentucky.org).

**NOTE:** Districts need to be aware that question 3.1a "Teachers have sufficient access to appropriate instructional materials" was not asked due to a routing error during the survey administration. This causes a renumbering in the questions from FY 2011 to the current survey. This should be an isolated occurrence. However, because it doesn't match up to the 2013 survey, question 3.1a should be discarded from comparison.

**Educator Development Suite (EDS) in CIITS:** EDS serves as the technology platform for the PGES. During the 2013-14 statewide PGES pilot, educators will use EDS to:

- record classroom observations
- access the *Kentucky Framework for Teaching* for self-reflection and to develop professional growth plans
- access professional learning resources and activities aligned to the *Kentucky Framework for Teaching*
- view student survey results

EDS brings together effectiveness data that will inform professional growth plans for educators at all levels. Through EDS, educators will be able to individualize professional learning based on need; search a catalog of professional learning resources including PD 360, and state and local activities; register for activities; and maintain a record of their own professional learning.



**Live Lync Online Sessions to Support Teacher PGES (TPGES) Implementation:** Starting last month, Kentucky educators have participated via Lync Online to learn more about the TPGES. Lync is a digital meeting tool that helps break down barriers of travel, time and expenses.

The sessions have addressed the basics of the TPGES and provided a deeper understanding of the multiple measures of the system. Sessions encouraged interactive participation and opportunities to ask questions. Office hour sessions were scheduled to provide another venue for asking clarifying questions and interacting with other districts. June sessions are being scheduled and will be conducted live via Lync.

**NOTE:** Recorded sessions from April and May will be archived in EDS for participants to register and receive PD credit. They are scheduled to be available by the end of May.

[The Lync sessions](#) are designed to be useful to educators who are just beginning to understand the TPGES and to give those already involved the opportunity to deepen their understanding before next year's statewide pilot.

To participate through Lync Online, you will need Web access, a Web camera, microphone and speakers (or you may prefer to use a headset with microphone). Further instructions on how to install the Lync Online tool will be sent out with the meeting information. However, you may wish to contact your school or district technology leadership team for assistance and begin practicing using the tool prior to the scheduled events.

**Accessing Professional Learning Opportunities/Resources in PD 360:** Video support of the *Kentucky Framework for Teaching*, based on the *Danielson Framework for Teaching*, is available to all educators in Kentucky through CIITS and PD360 resources. Teachers and leaders can access multiple videos aligned to each component of the framework. Support for topics such as differentiated instruction, higher-order questioning, classroom climate, exceptional learners and instructional leadership is available. To view these resources, access PD 360 from CIITS and click on "Focus." On the applications bar, click "State/Province" on the gray bar below the applications, and topics are listed under the heading "Kentucky."

Additionally, several recorded webinars on how to best use applications in PD360 are available for Kentucky leaders. These recordings can be found on the "PD/Videos" application link, just below the videos library. Cooperatives will be providing additional opportunities to learn about PD360 in the coming months. This support is provided to Kentucky educators in collaboration with the School Improvement Network team.

**PGES Proficiency System Update:** About 1,700 Kentucky educators have purchased licenses to work in Proficiency to obtain observation certification. As of mid-May, 251 have passed and only eight have not. Just a reminder: KDE responded to requests from district and school leaders to allow more time for the certification process. Hence, an early-bird special was launched in December 2012 to adjust and support overall implementation. As a result, the number of educators in the system nearly doubled from 712 in February to 1,411 after the Winter Summits. For more information, contact Shirley LaFavers at [Shirley@KASA.org](mailto:Shirley@KASA.org).

**Peer Observer Training Module:** KET network is collaborating with the Kentucky Department of Education to develop a training module for peer observers. This module is designed to provide background information, practice and assessment in the skills required to become an effective peer observer. The teacher effectiveness system will include peer observers as a means of providing teacher-to-teacher explicit, formative, dialogic feedback through observations. **The module is slated to be released before July 31.** Once released, personnel will sign up for this professional learning opportunity through the EDS in CIITS.

**Peer Observer Pilot Research Grant:** The Kentucky Department of Education has selected six districts to participate in the Peer Observer Pilot Research Grant to analyze peer observation models. This research seeks to provide districts with models that might be more feasible for districts to implement, use existing resources and technological structures more efficiently, and more importantly, yield more useful and effective feedback for teacher growth. The selected districts are choosing teachers to be observed and selecting peer observers through an application process. Soon, all participants will engage in a training session in using the Insight Duo Cameras that will be used in the grant. This training will also serve as the official kickoff for the Peer Observer Pilot Research Grant in which Associate Commissioner Felicia C Smith will speak to all participants live through Lync.

**Web Collection Tool for PGES pilot:** During the statewide pilot in 2013-2014, at least 10 percent of the schools in each district will implement the PGES. To prepare for the PGES pilot, the Kentucky Department of Education will use a web-based data collection tool to gather participant information. Districts will be required to log in to the Web collector tool to identify the designated school meeting the “required 10 percent” criteria. The district also may identify other schools in addition to the selected school to participate.

The “required 10 percent” school(s) will need to select a group of teachers within the school who meet the following criteria:

- ELA: 1-2
- Math: 1-2
- ELL/SPED: 1-2
- Non-assessed: 2-3

Any number/configuration of teachers in the “additional schools” can be identified to participate in the statewide pilot. Teachers participating in the statewide pilot must not be in the summative year of their evaluation cycle. Superintendents received an e-mail with specific directions on how to submit this information to the Web collector tool.

**Use of Title II Part A Funds for Principal Evaluator and Peer Observer Certification:** The Kentucky Department of Education recently made an inquiry to the U.S. Department of Education regarding the use of Title II, Part A funds for the required online principal evaluation certification (Teachscape). Normally, the use of federal funds to support a state requirement would be considered supplanting. However, since the statute was enacted as a result of the flexibility granted to Kentucky for NCLB, this is an allowable expenditure for Title II, Part A. The funds also may be used for the optional online teacher peer observer certification. It also may be possible to use other federal funding sources to pay for these certifications. To be certain, please contact KDE program staff.



**Principal Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PPGES) Update:** Kentucky is creating a Principal Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PPGES). During the 2012-2013 school year, 28 principals from 15 districts across the state participated in a PPGES field test. Data from the field test was collected throughout the year to further inform the system. The goal of this system is to support continuous growth and development of each principal by monitoring, analyzing and applying pertinent data compiled within a system of meaningful feedback from superintendents. The PPGES was developed in collaboration with James Stronge. The performance standards used in this system provide a balance between structure and flexibility. During the 2013-2014 school year, the PPGES will be piloted statewide. For additional information about PPGES go to the [Principal Professional Growth and Effectiveness System Web page](#).

**Principal Support for PGES:** Save the Date! KLA Kick-off for 2013-14 is July 10, 2013. Watch for information around this date and how to register for KLA for the 2013-14 school year. KLA will provide “just-in-time” support and tools for PGES pilot principals and other principals who would like to participate. Your district’s invitation to be involved is coming soon.

**Kentucky Teacher Stories on PGES:** *Kentucky Teacher* is highlighting the PGES initiative with feature stories on the experiences of teachers and principals within the field test. Stories provide readers with an overview of the entire system as well as an in-depth look at how Kentucky educators are implementing specific measures. All of the stories in the series can be found on the Kentucky Teacher [website](#). You can locate these stories easily by entering, “PGES Series” in the search box. If you have participated in the field test and would like to share your PGES story, contact Matthew Tungate at [matthew.tungate@education.ky.gov](mailto:matthew.tungate@education.ky.gov).

## Upcoming Events

**Critical conversations workshop:** Teachers, prepare to have writing instruction transformed! The EKU Writing Project is presenting a workshop for teachers, administrators, writing committees and Program Review teams **Saturday, June 8, 2013, 8 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. ET**. Author James Fredrickson is the featured speaker. For more information and registration materials, go to [www.ekuwritingproject.org](http://www.ekuwritingproject.org).

**Gifted Education Workshops:** Registration is now available for the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education (KAGE) Summer Workshops 2013 on **Tuesday, June 18, in Bowling Green**.

*Implementing the Common Core State Standards: Differentiation* focuses on examining the use of differentiation to foster continuous progress. Participants will receive the book *Teacher’s Survival Guide: Differentiating Instruction in the Elementary Classroom* by Julia L. Roberts and Tracy F. Inman.

*Finding Kentucky’s Gifted Children: Identification* focuses on providing information for screening processes in the five areas of giftedness identified in Kentucky. Participants in this workshop will receive the book *Identifying Gifted Students: A Practical Guide*, 2nd ed., edited by Susan Johnsen.

EILA credit is available. Go to <http://kagegifted.org/summer2013> for more information and to register online.

The Kentucky Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented is offering a limited number of scholarships to educators to attend the workshop. The scholarship application can be found at <http://kagegifted.org/summer2013>.

**2013 Kentucky Summer Reading Program – Dig Into Reading:** Summer reading programs at local Kentucky public libraries provide a wonderful opportunity for students to maintain reading skills. In summer 2013, readers of all ages will explore the wonders under our feet – buried treasure, evidence of ancient civilizations, insects, dinosaur bones, gardening and more. Teachers and parents are encouraged to help children use “[Find a Book, Kentucky](#)” to build personal reading lists for summer reading and then locate their selections at their school or public library or at a local bookstore. “Find a Book, Kentucky” uses the widely-adopted Lexile measure to match a reader with books that will provide the right level of challenge to support reading growth. The new “Find a Book” [app](#) is the ultimate book search tool for educators, parents, librarians and students to download on their Android mobile phone. School and public librarians are ready to assist children and their parents as they make summer reading selections.

For more information about specific activities, contests and reading events for the summer reading program in your county, contact your [local public library](#). Local public libraries across Kentucky have planned programs to keep children reading and learning all summer. Whether counting the amount of time your children spend reading or the number of books they have read this summer, children who join the summer reading program at their public library keep their brains active and enter school in the fall ready to learn and succeed.

You can find out more about this summer’s reading program [here](#) or by contacting [Heather.Dieffenbach@ky.gov](mailto:Heather.Dieffenbach@ky.gov).

## **Announcements**

**Highly Qualified Spanish Teacher Candidates Available:** If your school is looking for a teacher, KDE has a list of highly qualified, certified and experienced teachers from Spain to recommend for hire, in accordance with its memorandum of understanding with Spain. Many of these personally interviewed candidates are certified to teach Spanish and ESL, but some also are certified as elementary school teachers, or middle/high school art, chemistry, biology or special education teachers.

If you are interested in candidate information, contact Jacque Van Houten at [jacqueline.vanhouten@education.ky.gov](mailto:jacqueline.vanhouten@education.ky.gov).

**Host an International High School Exchange Student Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State:** The U.S. Department of State invites you to make a difference by hosting an international high school exchange student in your school or home this fall. Approximately 2,000 Department of State-sponsored exchange students from more than 50 countries, all of whom have undergone a competitive, merit-based selection process, will spend the 2013-14 academic year in communities across the United States. These exchange students live with American families, attend American high schools and participate in American culture, leadership activities

and community service. Exchange students can help internationalize classrooms and bring foreign affairs to life.

The Department of State seeks host families and host schools from all over the United States. Learn more or submit an interest form at <http://go.usa.gov/TUk5> and please share this announcement with others. You also can e-mail [youthprograms@state.gov](mailto:youthprograms@state.gov).